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*that's in
when school is out!*



Local government can help...

**The Summer
Food Service
Program
for Children**

1998 MAR - 7 # 03
JULY SERVICE
FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL
REGULATORY



Everyone Wins With Summer Food!

- Low-income children have nutritious meals and organized activities.
- Low-income parents stretch food dollars and have healthy recreation for their children.
- Food service workers have summer employment.
- The government agency receives Federal money to carry out the program.

What is the summer food program?

The Summer Food Service Program for Children is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered at the State level by a State agency. The agency reimburses sponsors (such as local government) for meals served at approved feeding sites in low-income areas to children 18 years and under.

Who can sponsor the summer food program?

Schools, camps, private nonprofit organizations, and *units of local government*.

What is an approved feeding site?

A feeding site must be approved by the State agency as either an "open" or "enrolled" site.

An "open" site is one in which at least half the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

An "enrolled" site is one in which at least half the children enrolled in the summer program are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch.

Who can receive meals at an approved feeding site?

All children 18 years of age or under are eligible to receive free meals at an "open" site. Only enrolled children may eat at an "enrolled" site.

How does a government agency apply to be a program sponsor?

Contact the State agency and complete an application form supplied by the agency.

How are government sponsors reimbursed for the meals served?

Forms documenting how many meals were served for the month must be submitted to the State agency. There is an administering and operating rate for each meal served. The sponsor will be reimbursed at that rate or for actual cost if less than the rate. The rates for the summer of 1998 are:

Administering Rate	Rural or Self-Prep	Urban or Vended
lunch	\$0.2175	0.1800
breakfast	0.1175	0.0925
snacks	0.0600	0.0475
Operating Rate	All Sponsors	
lunch	\$2.080	
breakfast	1.190	
snacks	0.4800	



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Is there a State or local match required to receive the Federal dollars to operate a summer food program?

There is no required match. With good planning, the reimbursement rate should be enough to cover costs.

What type of meal service is required?

Meals must have the same meal components as school lunch and breakfast. Lunch and one other meal or snack may be served. Additional benefits are available for migrant sites.

Can the government agency administer the program and supervise the feeding sites without actually having to prepare the meals?

Many government agencies, such as city parks and recreation departments, have no facilities to prepare meals. Meal preparation can be subcontracted to a school or other public or private food supplier with approved meal preparation facilities. The rate for meal preparation is negotiated. If your agency is interested in this arrangement, contact the summer food State agency, or find another agency with whom to subcontract meal preparation.



Make Summer a Nutritious and Healthy Experience for Lower Income Children

Operate A Summer Food Program

Around 14 million children depend on free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts for 9 months out of the year.

For many of those children, summer vacation does not mean "fun in the sun" but rather increased risk of hunger and developmental decline.

As government officials, you may know that children who miss school breakfast and lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests. Good nutrition is essential for learning in school.

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition—which is crucial for children to have safe and productive summers.

The summer food program provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals. The summer food program helps lower income children have productive summers and return to school ready to learn.

What's the next step?

Contact your State agency or the appropriate USDA regional office listed here:

Mid-Atlantic 609-259-5025		Northeast 617-565-6370	
DC	202-576-7400	CT	860-638-4239
DE	302-739-4676	ME	207-287-5315
MD	410-767-0199	MA	617-388-3300 x498
NJ	609-984-0692	NH	603-271-3646
PA	717-787-7698	NY	212-620-6307
PR	787-754-0790	RI	401-277-4600 x2452
VA	609-259-5050	VT	802-828-2447
VI	340-774-9373		
WV	304-558-2708		
Southeast 404-562-1800			
Midwest 312-353-6664			
IL	217-782-2491	AL	334-242-8225
IN	317-232-0850	FL	904-488-7649
MI	312-353-6673	GA	404-730-2612
MN	612-296-6986	KY	502-573-4390
OH	614-466-2945	MS	601-354-7015
WI	608-267-9121	NC	919-733-2973
		SC	803-734-2800
		TN	615-313-4764
Mountain Plains 303-844-0300		Southwest 214-290-9800	
CO	303-866-6661	AR	501-682-8869
IA	515-281-5356	LA	504-342-3720
KS	913-296-2276	NM	505-827-9961
MO	573-751-6269	OK	405-521-3327
MT	406-444-2505	TX	512-483-3941
NE	402-471-3566		
ND	701-328-2294		
SD	605-773-3413		
UT	801-538-7513		
WY	307-777-7494		
Western 415-705-1310/04			
		AK	907-465-8708
		AZ	602-542-8709
		CA	916-445-0850
		HI	808-733-8400
		ID	208-332-6820
		NV	702-687-9154
		OR	503-378-3579 x467
		WA	360-753-3580



USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs. To file a complaint, write to the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302.



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